Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN, PINT, PE

SUBJ: MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE DISCUSSES SAVINGS

REFS: A) LIMA 5303, B) LIMA 5341

1. ON JULY 7 MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE GEN.
AMILCAR VARGAS GAVILANO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE EXPRESSLY
TO REFUTE RUMORS THAT BOTH PRIVATE AND BUSINESS SAVINGS
ARE THREATENED BY THE GOP'S NEW ECONOMIC PACKAGE (REF A).
VARGAS STATED THAT THE NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES WOULD
STIMULATE PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRY, REDUCE SOME
ARTIFICIALLY HIGH PRICES, AND THUS PERMIT GREATER
SAVINGS BY INDIVIDUALS. HE SAID MANUFACTURING AND
SERVICE COMPANIES WILL OBTAIN A GREATER PROFIT, THUS
PERMITTING THESE COMPANIES TO SAVE MORE AS WELL.
VARGAS CONCLUDED HIS PREPARED STATEMENT BY NOTING THAT
THE GOP HAS NEVER TOUCHED NOR DOES IT INTEND TO TOUCH
PRIVATE SAVINGS AND THAT IT WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY
STEPS TO MAINTAIN THE VALUE OF THESE SAVINGS.

2. COMMENT: THE FINANCE MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE, HIS SECOND SINCE THE ECONOMIC PACKAGE WAS ANNOUNCED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUNE 30 (REF B), WAS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO ASSUAGE THE

PERUVIAN PUBLIC'S CONCERN ABOUT ADVERSE EFFECTS OF PRICE INCREASES ON SAVINGS AND THE MINISTERS' EMPHASIS DURING THEIR DISCUSSION OF THE PACKAGE (REF A) THAT NATIONAL SAVINGS HAVE NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT. IT DEMONSTRATES ONCE AGAIN THE NATURE OF RUMORS IN LIMA, WHICH ARE REGULARLY GENERATED BY THE MIDDLE CLASS WHICH FEELS ITS PRIVILEGES ARE SLOWLY BEING WHITTLED AWAY. VARGAS DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION EITHER INCREASED INCOME AND CORPORATE TAX MEASURES OR CHANGES IN THE NOW HIGHLY NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES TO WHICH HE ALLUDED DURING THE JUNE 30 PRESENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC PACKAGE. DEAN

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EGEN, PINT, ECON, PE, (VARGAS GAVILANO, AMILCAR)
To: STATE

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